

## Message Text

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56

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /089 W  
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O R 261322Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8826

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE PLO

SUBJ: JULY 26 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT SYRO-PALESTINIAN TALKS HAVE REACHED  
STAGE OF STUDYING DETAILS; CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON APPARENTLY  
BREAKS DOWN; AND SINAI AGREEMENT CRITICIZED

1. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING BETWEEN  
SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS EVENING JULY 25. NEXT  
SESSION SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD CHARGE THAT  
KHADDAM SPENT ALL YESTERDAY MORNING MEETING WITH BAATH PARTY  
NATIONAL COMMAND TO REPORT PROGRESS IN TALKS AND TO SEEK COMMAND'S  
GUIDANCE ON FURTHER MOVES. KHADDAM'S SESSION WITH PARTY

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LEADERSHIP MAY BE CONNECTED TO ASSERTION IN AL-BAATH EDITORIAL

THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH PALESTINIANS HAVE REACHED STAGE OF STUDYING DETAILS OF AGREEMENT. MEDIA MADE NO MENTION OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR HOSTING LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION JULY 25 AS REPORTED BY VOP (FBIS).

2. MEDIA CLAIMED THAT CEASEFIRE IN BEIRUT EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES AND THAT ASF REINFORCEMENTS HAD BEEN REQUESTED; ASF FORCES ATTEMPTING TO SUPERVISE CEASEFIRE PROBABLY SUFFERED SEVEN CASUALTIES. PRESS CITED COMMENTS BY AL MEDIATOR DR KHOULI SUGGESTING THAT CHAMOUN'S PLO FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERMINING CEASEFIRE.

3. QADDUMI MET WITH KHADDAM, ACCORDING TO SANA, TO INFORM HIM THAT BAGHDAD RADIO BLASTS AGAINST SYRIA DO NOT REPRESENT PLO VIEWS.

4. PRESS CITED ARTICLE IN KUWAITI AL-RAI AL-AMM STRESSING NEED FOR SYRO-PALESTINIAN COHESION AND ASSERTING THAT SINAI ACCORD HAD LED TO TRANSIENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO.

5. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CALLED FOR PROGRESS IN SYRO-PALESTINIAN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM VARIOUS PARTIES WHICH SEEKING TO PREVENT UNDERSTANDING INCLUDING:

(A) IRAQI REGIME, WHICH INSTIGATING PLO DENOUNCEMENTS OF SYRIA;

(B) JUMBLATT, WHO HAS USED PALESTINIANS TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS CHRISTIAN ADVERSARIES AND WOULD LIKE TO FOSTER MORE CLASHES BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO;

(C) EGYPTIAN REGIME, WHICH SHOWING CONCERN FOR PALESTINIANS IN ORDER TO REHABILITATE ITSELF IN ARAB EYES FOR SIGNING SINAI ACCORD;

(D) GANGS IN LEBANON WHICH BENEFIT FROM OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN BOOTY AS RESULT OF CRISIS.

EDITORIAL ADDED THAT NEITHER AMERICA NOR ISRAELI LOSES FROM CONTINUATION OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN TENSIONS BECAUSE U.S. DOES NOT WANT SETBACK IN ITS REGIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY AND WOULD PREFER WEAK NEGOTIATING PARTNERS.

6. COMMENT: IT NOW APPEARS THAT QADDUMI-KHADDAM TALKS HAVE ENTERED MORE SERIOUS STAGE OF SEEKING CONSENSUS ON DETAILED DRAFT AGREEMENT FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH WITNESSED EXCHANGE OF MUTUAL SUSPICIONS. DEBATABLE JUST HOW MUCH AUTHORITY ARAFAT DELEGATED TO DELEGATION; ACCORDING TO ONE LOCAL PALESTINIAN SOURCE, QADDUMI MAY BE

OPERATING WITHIN RELATIVELY NARROW GUIDELINES. CRITICAL  
REFERENCES TO SINAI ACCORD ONCE AGAIN BECOMING STANDARD  
DAILY FARE IN SYRIAN PRESS.  
PELLETREAU

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